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| **Type of character** | **Definition** |
| 1. Protagonist | Is the central person in a story, and is often referred to as the story's main character. He or she (or they) is faced with a conflict that must be resolved. The protagonist may not always be admirable (e.g. an anti-hero); nevertheless s/he must command involvement on the part of the reader, or better yet, empathy. |
| 2. Antagonist | Is the character(s) (or situation) that represents the opposition against which the protagonist must contend. In other words, he/she is an obstacle that the protagonist must overcome. |
| 3. Major or central | These characters are vital to the development and resolution of the conflict. In other words, the plot and resolution of conflict revolves around these characters. |
| 4. Minor | Serve to complement the major characters and help move the plot events forward. |
| 5. Dynamic | Is a person who **changes over time**, usually as a result of resolving a central conflict or facing a major crisis. These characters tend to be central rather than peripheral characters, because resolving the conflict is the major role of central characters. |
| 6. Static | Is someone who **does not change over time**; his or her personality does not transform or evolve. |
| 7. Round | Is anyone who has a **complex personality**; he or she is often portrayed as a conflicted and contradictory person. |
| 8. Flat | Is the opposite of a round character. This literary personality is notable for **one kind of personality trait or characteristic**. |
| 9. Stock | Are those types of characters who have become **conventional or stereotypical** through *repeated use*in particular types of stories. They are instantly recognizable to readers or audience members (e.g. the mad scientist, the geeky boy with glasses, and the faithful sidekick). They are normally one-dimensional flat characters, but sometimes are deeply conflicted, rounded characters. |
| 10. Anti-Hero | A major character, usually the protagonist, who lacks conventional nobility of mind, and who struggles for values not deemed universally admirable. The readers are usually drawn to the challenges he must overcome and the goals he seeks to achieve. |
| 11. Symbolic | Is any major or minor character whose very existence represents some major idea or aspect of society. |